

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-07 AID-05
HA-05 /110 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:DEJSTEWART:MDION:AB
APPROVED BY USOAS:IGTRAGEN
ARA/ECA:RGRAHAM

-----026915 150357Z /64

P 142308Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAY ATTACKS US IN OAS

1. PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR MARIO LOPEZ ESCOBAR DELIVERED
HARD-HITTING SPEECH AGAINST US POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA
AT APRIL 14 PROTOCOLARY SESSION OF PERMANENT COUNCIL
COMMEMORATING DAY OF THE AMERICAS. LOPEZ WARNED US REPS IN
ADVANCE THAT ASUNCION HAD INSTRUCTED HIM THEMES TO USE IN
USUALLY CEREMONIAL SALUTE TO HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY. IN THE
SPEECH HE CRITICIZED RESURGENCE OF A PROTECTIONIST TENDENCY
IN THE US WHICH HE ALLEGED ADVERSELY AFFECTED LA EXPORTS.
HE CHARGED US POLICY TOWARD HEMISPHERE LACKED REALISM AND
POINTED TO FLAGRANT CONTRADICTIONS, ASSAILING IN PARTICULAR
INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO WORLD BANK
AND IDB LOAN DECISIONS, WHICH HE HELD SHOULD BE BASED
EXCLUSIVELY ON TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, AND FINANCIAL GROUNDS.
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2. LOPEZ CHARGED US WITH INTERVENTIONIST ATTITUDES AND
REFERRED POINTEDLY TO IMPERIALISM AS TERM USUALLY ATTACHED
TO SYSTEM BY WHICH ONE NATION EXERCISES DOMINANCE OR WILL
TO POWER OVER OTHERS. LOPEZ CITED 12TH ANNUAL MEETING OF IA-
ECOSOC AND VII OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH CALLED FOR
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BASED SOLELY ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

PRIORITIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FREE OF ANY POLITICAL
STRINGS ATTACHED BY DONOR COUNTRIES. BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

HAD TO BE MET FIRST BECAUSE EVERYONE HAS RIGHT TO HAPPINESS
AND WELL-BEING. FOR ONE COUNTRY TO IGNORE OR QUESTION THIS
BASIC RIGHT WOULD CAUSE MASSES OF URBAN AND RURAL POOR
COUNTRIES INVOLVED TO REJECT INCOHERENT ATTITUDE (CLEARLY
THAT OF THE US). HE WARNED THAT THE PRICE FOR SUCH A
SHORT-SIGHTED POLICY COULD BE VERY HIGH.

3. LOPEZ ATTACKED THE US DIRECTLY FOR TURNING ITS BACK ON
ITS FRIENDS AND FOR APPEARING TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH ITS
ENEMIES. TERRORISM CAUSED MANY COUNTRIES DIFFICULT CHOICES
AND REQUIRED UNDERSTANDING FROM OTHERS. NO COUNTRY FACED
WITH TERRORISM SHOULD BE DENIED ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO
DEFEND ITSELF; INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM SHOULD NOT BE
PERMITTED TO CRUCIFY ANY COUNTRY. LOPEZ ADMITTED THAT ALL
GOVERNMENTS OF THE HEMISPHERE SHOULD RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS
WHICH HE SAID THEORY AND PRACTICE DAILY REAFFIRM FUNDAMENTAL
RIGHTS OF HUMAN BEINGS, TOGETHER WITH DIGNITY AND EQUALITY.
BUT HE DENIED THAT THERE WERE GOOD AND BAD COUNTRIES,
CHARGING THAT AN OUTSPOKEN AND DETERMINED MINORITY IS BENT
ON POLARIZING THE HEMISPHERE BETWEEN ONE CATEGORY -- COUNTRIES
COUNTRIES PLAGUED WITH DIFFICULTIES -- AND ANOTHER CATEGORY
-- MADE UP OF MODEL COUNTRIES WHERE NEITHER HUMAN NOR
DIVINE RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED, WHERE CORRUPTION, RACIAL SEGREGATION,
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GATION, FRAUD, DRUG ABUSE, TERRORISM, INSECURITY AND MISERY
ARE UNKNOWN.

4. LOPEZ ESCOBAR MADE HIS ONLY BOW TO THE OCCASION IN A
TERMINAL PARAGRAPH PAYING SACCHARINE HOMAGE TO THE INTER-
AMERICAN SYSTEM. HALF WAY THROUGH DELIVERY, LOPEZ STOPPED
TO CHASTISE VENEZUELA'S AMBASSADOR MACHIN FOR CARRYING ON A
SIDE CONVERSATION WHILE HE HAD THE FLOOR. VISIBLY
DISTURBED, MACHIN APPROACHED THE CHAIRMAN, OBVIOUSLY ASKING
PERMISSION TO SPEAK PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT. WHEN HE TOOK THE
FLOOR, MACHIN MADE UNCHARACTERISTICALLY RESTRAINED AND
STATESMANLIKE REMARKS ABOUT INAPPROPRIATENESS OF DAY OF THE
AMERICAS PROTOCOLARY SESSION FOR MAKING POLITICAL STATE-
MENTS. MACHIN WAS OBVIOUSLY REFERRING BOTH TO LOPEZ ESCOBAR'S
SPEECH AND TO DREARY REMARKS BY EL SALVADOR'S AMBASSADOR
MAZZINI, (SEPTIL) CURRENT PERMANENT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, WHICH
WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF US.

5. FOR ASUNCION AND SAN SALVADOR: FULL TEXTS OF BOTH
SPEECHES POUCHED. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERVENTION, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SPEECHES, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE096699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DEJSTEWART:MDION:AB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780162-0048
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780454/aaaabtlj.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aa9001b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2959908
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARAGUAY ATTACKS US IN OAS
TAGS: SHUM, PORC, PA, OAS, (LOPEZ ESCOBAR, MARIO)
To: ASUNCION
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aa9001b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014